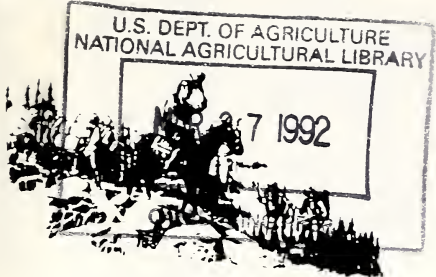


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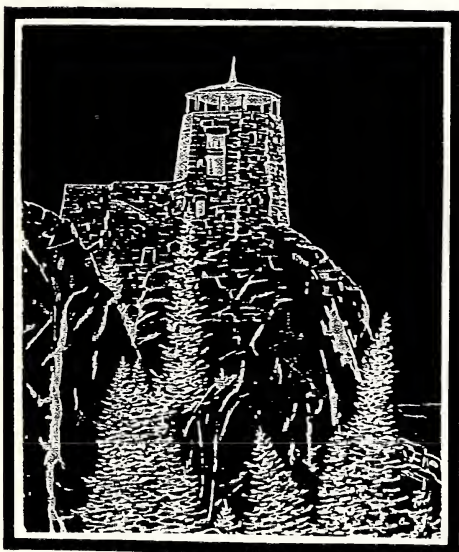
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NORBECK

WILDLIFE PRESERVE AND BLACK ELK WILDERNESS TRAIL SYSTEMS



USDA FOREST SERVICE
BLACK HILLS
NATIONAL FOREST
CUSTER, SOUTH DAKOTA



28 OCT 1991

***** YOURS TO ENJOY *****

Nearly everyone has a "special" place somewhere in the outdoors. Whether they go there to read a book or to risk life and limb in the pursuit of adventure, these are the places people hold dear. Within the heart of the Black Hills is an area cherished and used by many people. Bordered on the north by Mount Rushmore National Memorial and on the south by Custer State Park, this area includes the Black Elk Wilderness and the Norbeck Wildlife Preserve. Some people call it the "Harney Peak" area, others the "Norbeck" area, and some call it "Heart of the Hills".

Scenic resources are characterized by massive granite outcroppings, rough terrain, vegetative variety, and visual diversity. The Needles Highway and Iron Mountain Road wind their way through some of the most scenic country in America. The Needles Highway consists of 14 miles of hairpin curves and narrow tunnels, where granite spires and pinnacles of greatly varying shapes and sizes can be seen. The Iron Mountain Road, 17 miles, features the nationally famous "Pigtail" bridges and equally famous narrow tunnels that were made to frame Mount Rushmore National Memorial. From the Norbeck Memorial Overlook, there are spectacular views of the Black Elk Wilderness, Grizzly Creek drainage of Norbeck, and Harney Peak.

****** Norbeck Wildlife Preserve ******

Norbeck Wildlife Preserve was established by Congress in 1920 for the "protection of game animals and birds and to be recognized as a breeding place therefor." The Preserve covers about 35,000 acres of which 27,800 are managed by the Black Hills National Forest. Most of the remainder is under the jurisdiction of Custer State Park. It is home to a variety of wildlife, including elk, deer, and mountain goat. It also contains rugged granite formations, small lakes, scenic drives, and about 36 miles of hiking trails.

****** Black Elk Wilderness ******

Black Elk Wilderness is in the center of the Norbeck Wildlife Preserve. Named for Black Elk, an Oglala Sioux holy man, this 9,824 acre Wilderness was designated by Congress on December 22, 1980. Harney Peak, at 7,242 feet above sea level, is the highest point in the United States east of the Continental Divide. From an historic lookout tower on Harney Peak, one has a panoramic view of four states (South Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming, and Montana) as well as the granite formations and cliffs of the Black Elk Wilderness. About 17 miles of hiking trails are located in the Wilderness; they lead to the top of Harney Peak from almost any direction.

**** Harney Peak Lookout Tower ****

Harney Peak was named for General William Selby Harney in 1855. The stone tower was constructed in 1938 by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

The lookout tower was established for wildfire detection and was maintained and managed for that purpose from 1938 to 1967. In 1982, the lookout tower, dam, and pumphouse were placed on the National Register of Historic Places because of their historical significance.

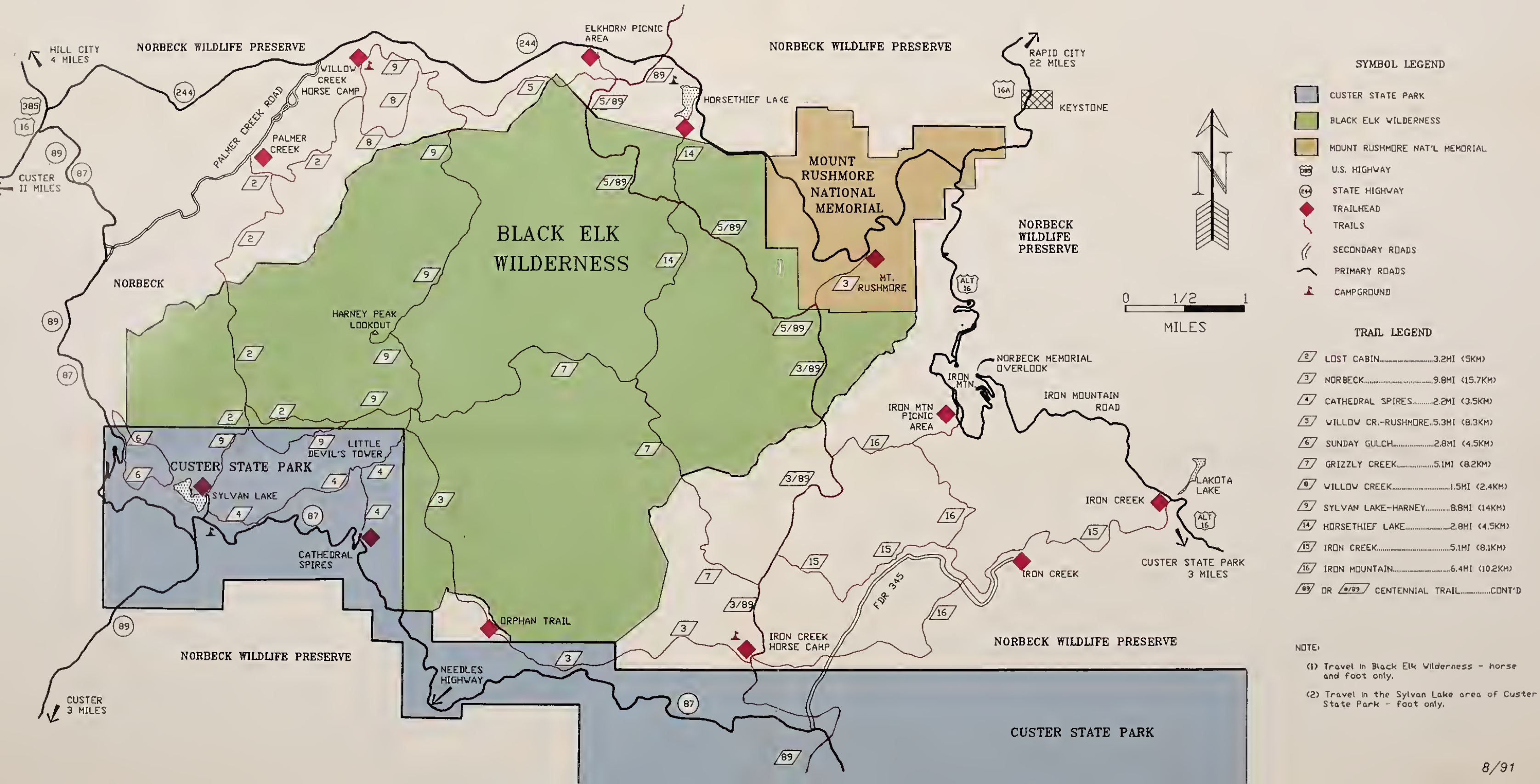


**** Camping ****

Four campgrounds are located within the Norbeck Wildlife Preserve, each tied directly to the trail system. Camping at Willow Creek is by reservation only. Horsethief and Sylvan Lake Campgrounds will accept reservation, or units are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Iron Creek is open, only, on a first-come, first-serve basis. Dispersed type camping is permitted, but we request that you choose a site at least 100 feet from a trail or stream.

BLACK HILLS NATIONAL FOREST

NORBECK WILDLIFE PRESERVE AND BLACK ELK WILDERNESS TRAIL SYSTEMS



**** Trails ****

The core of the Black Hills National Forest's hiking and horseback trail system lies within the Norbeck Wildlife Preserve and Black Elk Wilderness. It is commonly known as the Harney Peak Trail System because most trails lead to Harney Peak from almost any direction.

This area contains approximately 53 miles of trails and provides a wealth of non-motorized recreation opportunities ranging from mountain top panoramic views of ponderosa pine forests and spectacular geologic rock formations to visiting a cool forested stream canyon on a hot summer day and viewing a variety of wildlife.

A new trail, the Centennial Trail, stretches 111 miles from Wind Cave National Park to Bear Butte State Park. Eight miles of trail is located within the Norbeck Wildlife Preserve and Black Elk Wilderness.

Horse riders and hikers are the two main user groups utilizing this trail system. A third group, mountain bikers, has become more common in recent years. Although mountain biking is permitted within the Norbeck Wildlife Preserve, it is not authorized within the Black Elk Wilderness. Here, all forms of motorized and mechanical transport are prohibited to maintain wilderness values.

**** Additional Information ****

A detailed contour map showing trail locations, landforms, and landmarks may be purchased for \$2. It is entitled, "Hiking Map of the Norbeck Wildlife Preserve," and also includes information about the Black Elk Wilderness. The map may be purchased at Wind Cave National Park, Jewel Cave National Monument, Custer State Park, Bear Butte State Park, and Forest Service offices in Rapid City, Custer, and Newcastle, Wyoming through the Black Hills Parks and Forest Association.

For maps or more information about this trail system or the Black Hills National Forest, please contact any of these offices:

Black Hills National Forest Supervisor's Office RR 2, Box 200 Custer, SD 57730 (605) 673-2251	Harney Ranger District HCR Box 51 Hill City, SD 57745 (605) 574-2534
Bearlodge Ranger District FS Office Building Sundance, WY 82729 (307) 283-1361	Nemo Ranger District 460 Main Street Deadwood, SD 57732 (605) 578-2744
Pactola Ranger District 803 Soo San Drive Rapid City, SD 57702 (605) 343-1567	Custer Ranger District 330 Mt. Rushmore Rd Custer, SD 57730 (605) 673-4853 or 4852
Elk Mt. Ranger District 640 South Summit Newcastle, WY 82701 (307) 746-2783	Spearfish Ranger Dist. 2014 North Main Spearfish, SD 57783 (605) 642-4622

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